

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments as well as the Request for Reconsideration submitted herewith, and the following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is amended herein to specifically recite that the alumina hydrate is in the form of a flat plate, pursuant to the Examiner's comment in the attachment to the Advisory Action mailed on April 8, 2003. Support may be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 7-15. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

In the final Office Action dated December 30, 2002, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Yoshino et al. and Eguchi et al., and Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over those two references and further in view of Misuda et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections as applied to the present claims.

The present invention relates to a recording medium comprising a substrate and an ink-receiving layer containing an alumina hydrate having a boehmite structure and a flat plate form. Additional technical features of the alumina hydrate are (i) an average particle thickness of 2.0 to 6.0 nm and a crystallite size of 5.0 to 8.0 nm in the direction of the (020) plane, and (ii) the crystallite size in the direction of the (020) plane is greater than the average particle thickness by at least 1nm. The recording medium has a degree of parallelization of 30 to 1,000.

These technical features are determined as follows. The crystallite size in the direction of the (020) plane is determined by X-ray analysis. The average particle thickness is determined by observation with a transmission-type electron microscope.

The degree of parallelization of the recording medium is calculated by the formula

[intensity ratio of recording medium (ink-receiving layer) / intensity ratio of powder]

wherein the intensity ratios of the recording medium and the powder are each defined as (peak intensity of the (020) plane of the powder) / (combined peak intensity of the (051) and (200) planes of the powder).

Applicants determined that the relationship between the crystallite size in the direction of the (020) plane and the average particle thickness as recited in Claim 1 influences the performance of a recording medium. In the claimed recording medium, the crystallite size in the direction of the (020) plane is set to be greater than the average particle thickness by at least 1nm, so that the orientation of the alumina hydrate occurs readily when it is used in a recording medium. This provides a recording medium with minimal cracking and dusting problems.

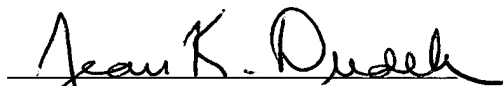
Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of Yoshino et al., Eguchi et al. or Misuda et al., whether taken alone or in the combinations proposed by the Examiner, teaches or suggests the claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given regarding Claim 1, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean K. Dudek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

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